

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM PRESS INTERVIEW

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES DECEMBER 17 RAN FRONT PAGE STORY BASED ON EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH KIM YONG-SAM, PRESIDENT OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) IN WHICH KIM DISCUSSED NATIONAL SECURITY, U.S. ASIAN POLICY, ROK FOREIGN POLICY AND NDP DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES. INTERVIEW HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN OTHER PAPERS OR ON MEDIA.

2. IN SECURITY FIELD KIM QUESTIONED CONCEPT OF "SELF RELIANT ROK DEFENSE POSTURE". WHILE ROK SHOULD MOVE TOWARD SELF RELIANCE HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TRIANGULAR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND JAPAN REMAIN NECESSARY FOR "IRON CLAD SECURITY". HE ALSO WELCOMED NEW U.S. PACIFIC DOCTRINE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS SIGNIFICANT POLICY, PLACING "PEACE AND SECURITY OF ASIAN AREA SURROUNDING KOREA ON A FIRM FOUNDATION".

3. KIM CRITICIZED ROKG FOREIGN POLICY FOR BEING SHORT-SIGHTED. HE CALLED FOR NEW LONG-TERM POLICY, ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS EXCEPT TO STATE ROK SHOULD PURSUE ITS OWN GOALS AND CEASE BEING OVERLY PREOCCUPIED WITH COUNTERING NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS; HE CITED ROKG'S NON-ALIGNED INITIATIVE AT UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMA AS EXAMPLE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC AND SOVIET UNION KIM REPORTEDLY SAID IT DESIRABLE FOR ROK TO SET UP RELATIONS WITH PRC. HE ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHY RELATIONS WITH CHINA SHOULD TAKE PREFERENCE OVER SOVIET UNION.

5. TURNING TO NDP DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND POLICY, NDP LEADER TOOK CREDIT FOR CHANGES IN TAX LAW AND BUDGET CUTS DURING PRESENT ASSEMBLY SESSION. HE PRESSED GOVERNMENT TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO PUBLIC WELFARE. IN POLITICAL SPHERE KIM DESCRIBED RESIGNATION OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIM OK-SON AS "YEAR'S MOST UNFORTUNATE AND REGRETABLE INCIDENT" FOR HIMSELF AND PARTY. HOWEVER, KIM DEFENDED PRESENT NDP POLICY AGAINST CRITICISM, CLAIMING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND ARGUING THAT OPPOSITION MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN THE FACE OF POLITICAL CHANGE. HE PROMISED TO DO BEST FOR PEOPLE'S FREEDOM DURING COMING YEAR BECAUSE OF CONVICTION THAT DEMOCRACY IS ONLY EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR "CRUSHING" NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS.  
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